



# HOUSE COMMITTEE *on* APPROPRIATIONS

RANKING MEMBER ROSA DeLAURO

## Prioritizing Mental Health

### *Provisions in the Fiscal Year 2023 Consolidated Appropriations Act to Support Mental Health Programs*

Democrats in Congress have been fighting to secure transformative federal investments to help fight inflation, lower the cost of living, support working families, create American jobs, and combat climate change.

In December 2022, Democrats in Congress secured transformative investments in the 2023 federal funding bill that help the middle class, working families, small businesses, and the vulnerable who work hard. We are not catering to the biggest corporations and billionaires. We are tackling some of our nation's biggest challenges, including increasing investments in mental health programs and resources.

Overall, the 2023 funding bill provides more than \$26.5 billion to bolster mental health programs and services. Below you will find a summary of the provisions included in this historic bill.

#### **Labor-HHS-Education**

Substance Use And Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA): The federal funding bill funds mental health programs in SAMHSA at \$2.8 billion, an increase of \$700 million above the fiscal year 2022 enacted level. SAMHSA funding includes:

- **Mental Health**: \$2.8 billion, an increase of \$700 million over the fiscal year 2022 enacted level, including a \$150 million increase to the Mental Health Block Grant (MHBG), making investments across the behavioral health continuum to support prevention, screening, treatment, and other services and \$385 million for Certified Community Behavioral Health, a \$70 million increase above the fiscal year 2022 enacted level, as well as:
  - **Mental health resources for children and youth**: \$140 million for Project AWARE, an increase of \$20 million above the fiscal year 2022 enacted level; \$94 million for the National Child Traumatic Stress Initiative, an increase of \$12 million above the fiscal year 2022 enacted level; and \$15 million for Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health, an increase of \$5 million above the fiscal year 2022 enacted level.

- **Suicide and behavioral health crisis prevention:** \$502 million for the 988 and Behavioral Health Crisis Services program, an increase of \$390 million above the fiscal year 2022 enacted level; and \$63 million for Garrett Lee Smith Youth Suicide Prevention program, an increase of \$9 million above the fiscal year 2022 enacted level.
- **Mental Health Crisis Response Grant Program:** \$20 million to help communities continue to create mobile behavioral health crisis response teams, an increase of \$10 million above the fiscal year 2022 enacted level.

Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA): The bill includes \$9.7 billion for HRSA, an increase of \$852 million above the 2022 enacted level. The amount includes:

- **Maternal mental health resources:** \$7 million for the Maternal Mental Health Hotline, an increase of \$3 million above the fiscal year 2022 enacted level; and \$10 million for Screening and Treatment for Maternal Depression and Related Disorders, an increase of \$3.5 million above the fiscal year 2022 enacted level.
- **Behavioral Health Workforce Education and Training:** \$153 million, an increase of \$30 million above the fiscal year 2022 enacted level to increase the supply of behavioral health providers—this includes \$34.7 million for the Mental and Substance Use Disorder Workforce Training Demonstration Program, an increase of \$3 million above the fiscal year 2022 enacted level; and \$40 million for the Substance Use Treatment and Recovery Loan Repayment Program, an increase of \$16 million above the fiscal year 2022 enacted level
- **Mental and Behavioral Health:** \$44 million, an increase of \$5 million above the fiscal year 2022 enacted level, which includes \$25 million for Graduate Psychology Education.

National Institutes of Health (NIH) – National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH): The funding bill includes \$2.3 billion for NIMH, an increase of \$121 million over the fiscal year 2022 enacted level, for biomedical and behavioral research on the causes, prevention, and treatment of mental health disorders.

Department of Education: This bill also includes \$111 million within School Safety National Activities for Mental Health Services Professional Demonstration Grants and School-Based Mental Health Services Grants to help Local Educational Agencies directly increase the number of mental health and child development experts in schools.

### **Military Construction & Veterans Affairs**

This bill supports care for our veterans with investments in VA health care, including targeted funding to advance women's health, mental health, and homelessness assistance. Specifically, the legislation includes \$118.7 billion for Veterans Medical Care, an increase of \$21.7 billion above the 2022 enacted level and equal to the budget request. This will provide care for 7.3 million patients expected to be treated by VA in fiscal year 2023. This amount includes:

- \$13.9 billion for Mental Healthcare, an increase of \$743.8 million above the fiscal year 2022 enacted level and \$1.5 million above the budget request, including \$498 million for suicide prevention outreach. This will support the nearly 2 million veterans who receive mental health services in a VA specialty mental health setting, as well as support suicide prevention services like the Veterans Crisis Line, which is expected to see an increase in demand by over 100 percent in the coming year.
- \$85.9 million for Whole Health Initiatives, an increase of \$2.3 million above the fiscal year 2022 enacted level and \$10 million above the President’s budget request. This will enable VA to build upon the success of this program that supports Veterans’ overall health and well-being, with a focus on improving mental health and stress reduction, and which saw 573,940 veterans participating in 2021.
- \$916 million for Medical and Prosthetic Research, an increase of \$34 million above the fiscal year 2022 enacted level and equal to the budget request, which includes \$130.1 million specifically for research into mental illness, including identifying more effective suicide prevention efforts and developing effective psychotherapies for Post-traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), as well as \$141 million for research into brain health, including studying impacts of traumatic brain injury that can affect mental well-being.

### **Agriculture-Rural Development- FDA**

The fiscal year 2023 federal spending package provides:

- \$10 million for the Farm and Ranch Stress Assistance Network which supports mental health and stress assistance programs for farmers, ranchers, and others engaged in agriculture-related occupations.
- \$60 million for Distance Learning and Telemedicine grants which help link medical service providers in one area to patients in another. This is especially important for rural communities with unique challenges due to their remoteness and low population density.
- \$3.45 billion in Community Facilities, part of which may be used for the construction, expansion, or equipping of rural mental health facilities.

### **Commerce-Justice-Science**

The bill also includes:

- \$12 million for Disabilities Program grants under the Office on Violence Against Women, an increase of \$4.5 million above fiscal year 2022.
- \$10 million for grants for Officer Training for Responding to People with Mental Illness or Disabilities, equal to fiscal year 2022.
- \$45 million for grants under the Mentally Ill Offender Act, within the Anti-Opioid Initiative, an increase of \$5 million above fiscal year 2022.

- \$10 million for grants under the Law Enforcement Mental Health and Wellness Act within Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) Hiring grants, an increase of \$2 million above fiscal year 2022.
- \$3 million for grants under Kevin and Avonte’s Law aimed at reducing the number of deaths and injuries of individuals with forms of dementia, such as Alzheimer’s Disease, or developmental disabilities, such as autism, who due to their condition wander from safe environments.
- \$82 million for STOP School Violence Act grants under State and Local Law Enforcement Activities, equal to fiscal year 2022, for training for school officials in responding to mental health crises. In addition, \$40 million was earlier provided for this same program for fiscal year 2023 in the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act (Public Law 117-159).

## **Defense**

The bill provides \$1.5 billion, as requested, for clinical mental health programs and initiatives focused on evaluating, treating, and following up with servicemembers and other Department of Defense beneficiaries suffering from a variety of mental health issues. Additionally, the bill includes:

- \$175 million above the request for the peer-reviewed traumatic brain injury and psychological health research program.
- \$4 million above the request for the peer-reviewed alcohol and substance use disorders research program.
- \$193 million for Suicide Prevention programs, \$22 million above the fiscal year 2022 enacted level.

## **Interior-Environment**

### Indian Health Service

The bill provides \$127 million for mental health services to Native Americans, \$5 million above the fiscal year 2022 enacted level.

## **Financial Services and General Government**

### Office of Personnel Management

The bill provides \$422 million an increase of \$49 million above the fiscal year 2022 enacted level which will improve Federal employee access to mental and behavioral health programs.

## **Legislative Branch**

The funding bill includes:

- \$1.3 million for the House Center for Well-Being, creating capabilities to identify and launch new health and well-being resources and services mindfully and strategically. Specifically, this funding assisted in efforts to expand the House Center for Well-Being's outreach efforts in the aftermath of the January 6th, 2021, attacks.
- \$1.9 million for the Office of Employee Assistance (OEA), which will support additional programming as the utilization of OEA services has in the last two years. This funding also allowed for increased crisis management services for the House community to promote and support organizational well-being.
- Direction for the CAO and the AOC to ensure mental health services are available to support the diverse needs of all staff and conduct an awareness campaign advertising these services for all those who work in the Capitol Complex.
- \$ 2.6 million to support the USCP employee wellness and resiliency programs within the Liebengood Center for Wellness.

## **Homeland Security**

### U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP)

The bill provides \$27.3 million for onsite mental health clinicians and resiliency efforts for U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) personnel.

## **Transportation, and Housing and Urban Development**

The fiscal year 2023 bill:

- Directs the U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness to brief the Committees on the specific actions being taken to address mental health among homeless populations.
- Encourages HUD to facilitate collaboration between Continuum of Cares and specialty partners that provide mental health services, including suicide prevention, for youth experiencing homelessness.

## **State and Foreign Operations**

The fiscal year 2023 House State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs (SFOPS) bill encourages the integration of mental health services and psychosocial support across global health and humanitarian programming, especially for children recovering from trauma and those exposed to genocide or crimes against humanity.